

# Built By the Lord

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## Chapter 6

# The Ultimate Goal: Heaven

### I. Does Anything Else Matter?

- A. Story about a young man graduating high school.
- B. The story of the rich fool, Luke 12:20,
- C. Philippians 3:13-14 → This is the ultimate goal → Heaven
- D. In fact, this is the only goal.
  - 1. If you think about it, is there anything in life that you would accomplish and say, “You know what? Since I’ve accomplished this goal, spending eternity in hell will be worth it?”
  - 2. There will come a day when we will not care about our: job, money, house, car, school, sports, honor roll, boat, vacation home, or any THING. We will only care about one thing. Are we going to heaven?
- E. The decision concerning heaven or hell will not be made on the day of judgment. It is being made right now by how we choose to live.

### II. Running the Race

- A. 1 Cor. 9:24-27 – Paul compared the Christian life to running a race.
- B. We need to view our walk in Christ together as a family as though we were running a marathon.
  - 1. “Christianity is a marathon and not a sprint.”
  - 2. **First**, we must exercise, Heb. 5:14.
    - a. We must study and properly apply scripture to train our senses to discern between good and evil.
    - b. 1 Cor. 9:24-27 – Paul encouraged self-control.
    - c. People who are runners use running for exercise and discipline.
    - d. What are we doing to exercise our families in the Word of God and help them learn self-control and discipline?
  - 3. **Second**, we have to do this on purpose.
    - a. Paul said that he did not run in such a way as to run without aim or box in such a way as beating the air.
    - b. That is, he did things on purpose.
    - c. He understood that he would not win the prize accidentally.
    - d. What plan do you have to get you and your family to heaven?
  - 4. **Third**, Paul said he had to discipline his body and bring it into subjection.
    - a. He couldn’t just do anything he wanted. He had to give up some things.
    - b. That is not easy... but it is necessary.
    - c. Phil 3:7
  - 5. There are many things we can see as positives in this life.

- a. If these things distract us from the best, we need to get rid of them.
- b. Luke 10:38-42 – Mary and Martha – There is nothing wrong with hospitality and a good meal.
  - 1) At that moment, Jesus' teaching was what would help her accomplish the ultimate goal.
  - 2) Mary chose the good part and it would not be taken from her.

### III. Reaching Forward

- A. Phil. 3:12-14 – Paul said that he was pressing on for the prize.
- B. First, he pressed on because he realized that he had not attained the goal.
  - 1. Some people will so bank on God's grace and act as though there is nothing more required of them.
  - 2. Paul said that he had not attained the goal. He would press on.
  - 3. Our families have not attained the goal. No matter what we have done or accomplished, we are not in heaven yet. We must keep working, growing, and pressing on!
- C. Second, he forgot what went behind.
  - 1. Paul put failures and successes alike in the past.
  - 2. Like any race, we will have ups and downs.
  - 3. Eccl. 4:9-12

### IV. Redeem the Time

- A. Finally, we do not know how long we have to run this race.
- B. Ephesians 5:15-16 → Be careful how you walk.
  - 1. "The days are evil" may refer to Eccl. 9:12.
  - 2. We never know what a day will bring.
  - 3. We all know of teens or young adults who die suddenly in an accident or with an illness.
  - 4. At that time, the only thing that matters is whether or not they had been growing in Christ.
- C. We don't know what today, tomorrow, or the next day will bring for you or your family.
  - 1. We cannot put off working toward the ultimate goal of heaven.
  - 2. We must look at everything we do and everything our family does, from the standpoint of how we will feel about it on the Day of Judgment.
  - 3. Rom. 8:18

### V. Today's Response

- A. What are your plans for the next several years to get you and your family to heaven?
- B. What is your plan for today and tomorrow to redeem the time and help your family reach forward for the prize?
- C. How would it be different if you knew it was your last days?
- D. Are there any pursuits that are distracting you and your family from pressing on for the prize in Christ Jesus?